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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/865,691	05/29/2001	Hiroshi Fukumoto	KIX0148-US	5176

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EXAMINER

SAFAIPOUR, HOUSHANG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2622

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/865,691

Applicant(s)

FUKUMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Houshang Safaipoor

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 May 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/10/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsunekawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,293,877).

Regarding claim 1, Tsunekawa et al. discloses an image reading apparatus comprising: a plurality of light-receiving elements that output image signals corresponding to received light; a plurality of lenses that focus light onto the light-receiving elements; and a light-shielding member wherein all of the light-receiving elements are arranged in a single line having an extremity, the light-shielding member covering at least one light-receiving element disposed at the extremity (fig. 1, col. 5, line 54 through col. 6, line 17).

Regarding claim 2, Tsunekawa et al. discloses The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein remaining light-receiving elements other than the covered light-receiving element or elements are exposed (fig. 1).

Regarding claim 7, Tsunekawa et al. discloses The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a semiconductor chip in which the plurality of light-receiving elements are built in (fig. 1).

Regarding claim 8, Tsunekawa et al. discloses The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the light-shielding member covers a part of the semiconductor chip in addition to said one light-receiving element disposed at the extremity (fig. 1).

Regarding claim 9, Tsunekawa et al. discloses The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising an additional semiconductor chip in which a plurality of identical light-receiving elements are built in, wherein all of the identical light-receiving elements are exposed (fig. 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable Tsunekawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,293,877), and further in view of Miyakawa (U.S. Patent No. 4,974,098).

Regarding claim 3, Tsunekawa et al. does not explicitly disclose the apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the covered light-receiving element is arranged to avoid direct facing to an object to be read out. However, Miyakawa et al. discloses such an apparatus (col. 1, line 34-58) and col. 3, lines 35-52). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the two inventions to improve obtaining a signal of dark current information from the shielded photo sensor elements.

Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsunekawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,293,877).

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Regarding claims 4-6 covering and shielding the light receiving elements with different materials and techniques are well known and routinely implemented in the art.

Contact Information


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Houshang Safaipoor whose telephone number is (703)306-4037.

The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. from 6:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L Coles, Sr. can be reached on (703)305-4712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Houshang Safaipoor
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2622
December 10, 2004


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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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